

Torrance, California
March 23, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, March 23, 1943, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

City Clerk Bartlett called the roll; those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: Hitchcock,

Councilman Babcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 9th, 1943, be approved as written. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Mr. Pat MacDonnell, Defense Housing Coordinator, stating that the subdividers and developers of the Park Knolls Tract are desirous of extending their operations so as to include both sides of Border Avenue, and possibly extending in an easterly direction, to Western Avenue; but that a recent application to the National Housing Agency for approval of the new district on Border Avenue was rejected, due to the detrimental influences of two oil derricks and an old refinery.

Mr. MacDonnell requested that the City Attorney of the City of Torrance be instructed to ascertain and determine the steps necessary to have these old oil derricks and refinery cleared up, so that the housing program can proceed.

Councilman Babcock moved that the letter be referred to the City Attorney for action. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Pat MacDonnell, Housing Coordinator, tendering his resignation from the office of Housing Coordinator for the City of Torrance, to take effect as of April 15th, 1943.

In his letter, Mr. MacDonnell stated that the National Housing Agency of the United States Government is expanding the program of War Housing in industrial areas, and it has been deemed advisable by the War Housing Center of the National Housing Agency, to open an office in the City of Torrance or vicinity and that the Department had offered him the position of District Manager, with responsibilities covering a much larger area; and that it would be his function to carry on the work of securing housing accommodations for the Torrance area.

Mr. MacDonnell extended to the City Council of the City of Torrance, and the agencies who were responsible for initiating the housing program in Torrance, his compliments and congratulations for the progressive step, as he believed that definite progress in this direction had been made.

Councilman Babcock moved that the resignation of Mr. Pat MacDonnell be accepted, effective as of April 15, 1943. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci then moved that the City Clerk be instructed to write a letter to Mr. Pat MacDonnell thanking him for his period of service to the City; and expressing the appreciation of the City Council for his efforts towards securing additional housing facilities for the City of Torrance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Planning Congress of Los Angeles County, signed by Mr. J. A. Mellen, Secretary-Treasurer, recommending that Redondo Avenue, from Redondo Boulevard southerly to 190th Street, in the City of Torrance, be changed to the name "Yukon Avenue" since this street is an extension of Yukon Avenue in the territory northerly of the City of Torrance, and the name "Redondo" is seriously duplicated in this City and elsewhere in the County of Los Angeles.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Jain if he had heard anything about this proposed change in name, and Mr. Jain replied that he had not heard of it.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from the County Planning Congress, concerning the changing of the name of Redondo Avenue to "Yukon Avenue" in the City of Torrance, be referred to the City Engineer, and that a resolution be prepared covering this. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Civil Service Board, of the City of Torrance, advising that the question of granting a leave of absence to employees who might leave the employ of the City of Torrance to go into Defense industries, was discussed at a joint meeting of the Civil Service Board and the City Council, held on March 17, 1943; and that it was mutually agreed that in the event any employee is actually drafted into a defense industry such employee should be granted a leave of absence; but that any employee voluntarily leaving the employ of the City to go into a Defense industry would not be entitled to a leave of absence.

This letter was ordered filed for record.

A communication was read from the Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that the members of Local No. 360 (C.I.O.) were not satisfied with the proposed amendments to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations as drafted by that Board; and requesting a joint meeting of the members of the Civil Service Board and of the City Council, to be held, if possible, on Wednesday, April 7th, 1943, at 8:00 o'clock P.M.

Mayor McGuire asked the Councilmen present, if this date would be agreeable to them, and upon receiving an affirmative answer, instructed City Clerk Bartlett to notify Councilman Hitchcock of this meeting.

Mr. Bartlett stated that he had made arrangements for a meeting of the City Council with Mr. Jeffery, and representatives of Local No. 360, for Friday evening, March 26th.

Mr. Powell recommended that this meeting with Mr. Jeffery be deferred until after the meeting with the Civil Service Board, on April 7th. This was concurred in by the other Councilmen, and Mayor McGuire instructed the City Clerk to notify Mr. Jeffery to this effect.

A communication was read from the Torrance Civil Service Board, relative to allowing City Employees to work during vacation periods and draw vacation pay in addition to their regular earned pay, in order to relieve the labor shortage.

The communication stated that it was the opinion of the members of the Civil Service Board that each case should be considered individually and a letter submitted to the said Board from the department head requesting that such employee be permitted to work during his vacation period; such request to be based on the actual needs of the department. Thereafter, if it is agreeable to the employee, and it appears to the Personnel Board that there is an actual need for such employee to work, the request will be granted.

Councilman Babcock asked if that would apply to both Civil Service Boards; and Councilman Cucci suggested that this matter be brought up at the joint meeting with the Civil Service Board, to be held on April 7th, next.

A communication was read from Mrs. Cecilia H. Young, 2355 Eldorado Street, Torrance, requesting an increase in salary, owing to the high cost of living; and stating that she has been employed by the City for the past seventeen months, and has only had one raise in pay.

City Clerk Bartlett advised that Mrs. Cecilia Young was employed by the City as a Crossing Guard.

Mayor McGuire asked if the City was paying the Crossing Guards the same rate as the County of Los Angeles, to which Chief Stroh replied that he believed the County was paying their Crossing Guards the same as the City of Torrance, and stated that their pay had been increased from fifty cents to sixty cents an hour this year.

Councilman Powell moved that this communication be referred to the Chief of Police for investigation and recommendation at the next meeting of the City Council. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Joel Hagberg, Scoutmaster, WALTERIA, stating that the City of Torrance owns at least four lots in WALTERIA, and requesting, on behalf of members of Troop No. 240, Boy Scouts of America, permission to use at least one of the lots for a troop headquarters.

Councilman Gucci moved that the request of Mr. Hagberg be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Mr. Joel Hagberg, 24241 Neece Avenue, WALTERIA, stating there is a shortage of men in the Police Department, and offering his services as a member of the Police force for the duration of the war.

Councilman Gucci moved that the request of Mr. Hagberg be referred to the Civil Service Board and the Chief of Police. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

City Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1564

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ORDER THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTIES ACQUIRED BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Councilman Powell moved that Resolution No. 1564 be adopted. Councilman Gucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Gucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

A communication was read from Mr. J. M. Lowery, County Auditor of the County of Los Angeles, with reference to the liability of the City of Torrance for unpaid taxes, for the fiscal year 1941-42, under Refunding of Acquisition & Improvement District No. 28 (Alondra Park); and making demand upon the City for the payment of such delinquent taxes, in the amount of \$950.16.

Mayor McGuire inquired what the procedure was; to which City Clerk Bartlett replied that the City would have to pay this sum from the General Fund, and get it back through a levy in City taxes for the next fiscal year.

At the request of Councilman Powell, the City Clerk read the Refunding Act, and it was regularly moved by Councilman Babcock that a warrant be drawn for \$950.16, in favor of the County Auditor of the County of Los Angeles, for delinquent taxes under Acquisition & Improvement District No. 28, for the fiscal year 1941-42.

Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Fire Chief McMaster, advising that Firemen Casper Clemmer and John Fess had served six months on the Fire Department as temporary firemen, and recommending that they be granted the usual \$10.00 increase in salary, effective as of March 16, 1943.

Councilman Powell moved that Firemen Casper Clemmer and John Fess be given an increase in salary of \$10.00 per month, effective March 16, 1943. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Powell moved that Mr. Roy Stout be employed in the Police Department, as a temporary Policeman, at a salary of \$160.00 per month, effective March 23, 1943; adding that Mr. Roy Stout was an experienced Police Officer. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00 be made for materials for a tool house for the City Park Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci moved that Harry L. Renfro be employed as a temporary laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$145.00 per month, effective February 23, 1943. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Cucci moved that Frank Jarratt be employed as a temporary laborer in the Street Department, at a salary of \$145.00 per month, effective March 5, 1943. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Babcock read a communication from Mr. C. Z. Ward, Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, requesting authority to hire a bus driver to take the place of Harvey Drysdale, effective March 22nd.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Ward be authorized to secure the services of a bus driver on a temporary basis, to take the place of Harvey Drysdale. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$52.02, plus tax, be made for labor and material from Torrance Auto Parts to rebuild Westinghouse Compressor for Bus No. 106. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Mayor McGuire moved that a warrant be drawn in the amount of \$369.59 in favor of H. L. Byram, County Tax Collector, as final payment for advertising tax-deeded lots in the Torrance Herald. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of \$176.68, for labor and material, be made for painting the interior of the City Library. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Mayor McGuire advised that he had a communication from City Engineer Jain advising that the City Planning Commission, at their meeting held March 22nd, had referred the following matters back to the City Council:

(1) Permission to place a trailer in the Service Station at Cravens Avenue and Torrance Boulevard.

Mayor McGuire referred the Councilmen to Ordinance No. 316 of the City of Torrance, which does not allow trailers to be parked anywhere in the City of Torrance, unless in a regular trailer camp.

(2) Request for permission to construct tent houses on property belonging to Chanslor-Camfield Midway Oil Company, for residential purposes.

Mayor McGuire stated that no provision is made for any tent houses in the City of Torrance, but that Councilman Hitchcock had promised to investigate this further and report back to the Council.

Mayor McGuire moved that Omar Dierkens be employed as a mechanic at a salary of \$200.00 per month to replace James Cozart, resigned. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Mayor McGuire asked City Engineer Jain if he had received payment from G. L. Peck Company for a building permit. Mr. Jain replied that Mr. Peck had made payment in full, on an adjusted valuation of \$186,600.00.

Mayor McGuire asked City Engineer Jain if he had anything to report on the condition of the American Legion building; to which Mr. Jain replied that he had received no reply from Mr. Dunham, Commander of the American Legion Post.

Councilman Babcock asked City Engineer Jain if there was any report on the damaged building at the corner of Gramercy Avenue and Carson Street. Mr. Jain replied that he had issued orders to Mr. Gascoigne to erect a barricade, providing he can get the lumber.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. W. J. Swanson, 23862 Hawthorne Blvd., WALTERIA, stated that there were some vacant lots on the north side of her property, which were owned by Mr. James S. Polston, a City employee; that these lots were littered up with a lot of junk and trash; and that it depreciated the value of the surrounding property. She requested that some action be taken to have these lots cleaned up and the junk removed.

Mayor McGuire asked Mr. Gascoigne, Street Superintendent, to see Mr. Polston about this and ask him what he intended to do about it. He suggested that Mr. Gascoigne ask Mr. Polston to clean up his place and turn in the scrap for the war effort. Mr. Gascoigne stated that he would talk to Mr. Polston in the morning.

Councilman Babcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Hitchcock.

Mayor McGuire announced that there would be a public hearing before the City Council on Monday, April 5th, 1943, at 8:00 o'clock p.m., in the Council Chambers, to consider the rezoning of certain areas in the Vista Highlands Tract.

At 8:25, upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Cucci, the meeting adjourned.

A. H. Babcock
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

John F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance